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THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
STATE RECLAMATION & MOSQUITO CONTROL BOARD

**EAST MIDDLESEX MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**  
**SUFFOLK COUNTY MOSQUITO CONTROL PROJECT**

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**East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission, Executive Committee**  
**Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission**  
**Meeting Minutes**

**April 29, 2024**

**Zoom Video Conferencing Platform**

In attendance:

Brian Farless, Superintendent for East Middlesex Mosquito Control Project (EMMCP) and Suffolk County Mosquito Control Project (SCMCP). David Henley, Administrative Coordinator for EMMCP and SCMCP. Representing the East Middlesex Mosquito Control Commission (EMMCC) is Lenny Izzo, chair, Wellesley; Wendy Robinson, Cambridge; Tony Kiszewski, Concord; and Rana Whebe, Everett. Representing the Suffolk County Mosquito Control Commission (SCMCC) is Julien Farland, Leslie Karnes and Sam Lipson.

Brian Farless called the meeting to order at 1:03

**1. EMMCC and SCMCC will review minutes from the January 18, 2024 meeting.**

The group reviewed the minutes for the January 18, 2024 meeting, and for East Middlesex, Wendy made a motion to approve the minutes, Tony seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

For Suffolk County, Sam made a motion to approve the January 18, 2024 minutes, Julien seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

**2. Step raise for eligible employees.**

Brian gave a work performance summary for an East Middlesex employee that is eligible for a step increase. On the Employment and Salary Plan, Chris Gagnon is currently at step 6 on the Assistant to the Superintendent step schedule. Brian gave a good review for Chris and recommended that he be awarded a step increase, moving him to step 7. After the Commission discussed, Wendy made a motion to give Chris a step increase, Tony seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

**3. Discuss a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for FY25.**

The Commissions discussed whether a 2% COLA would be appropriate, or if 3% would be more appropriate due to rising cost of living. EMMCC and SCMCC decided to revisit this item at the next meeting.

#### **4. Discuss FY25 budgets.**

Brian presented on the FY25 budgets for EMMCP and SCMCP. For EMMCP, the budget amount for FY25 is \$885,658, which is a 1.78% increase. After the EMMCC reviewed the budget, Wendy voted to approve the FY25 budget in the amount of \$885,658, Lenny seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

For SCMCP, the FY25 budget amount that Brian presented on was \$298,555.96, which represents level funding. After the SCMCC reviewed the budget, Sam made a motion to approve the FY25 budget in the amount of \$298,555.96, Leslie seconded. There was no further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

#### **5. Project updates.**

Mosquito traps showed high mosquito populations during the 2023 season. With high mosquito populations and having a warm winter with a fair amount of precipitation, there is an expectation that we could experience high mosquito populations during 2024 as long as we don't have a drought. Between late August and early October of 2023, EEE was found in mosquito samples in Worcester, Hampden, Plymouth and Barnstable counties. With the EEE vector populations being high and EEE being found in MA during 2023, there is potential for EEE to be an issue during the 2024 mosquito season.

In the East Middlesex district, helicopter larviciding was conducted on April 16, 2024. 1,800 acres had Bti applied, and good control was found during the post-treatment surveys. Both SCMCP and EMMCP staff have been visiting wetlands by foot since early April to conduct larval control work. Larval control work will continue throughout the summer.

Seasonal employees are currently being hired. So far, we once again aren't having very many applicants. Catch basin applications will start soon.

SCMCP and EMMCP had request for office space proposals be issued in late 2023 and early 2024. SCMCP's current landlord was the only applicant for SCMCP, and SCMCP will be staying at their current location. Two bids were received for EMMCP, and EMMCP will be staying in their current location.

#### **6. Adjourn**

For the EMMCC, Lenny made a motion to adjourn, Wendy seconded. There was further discussion and by roll call vote, all were in favor.

SCMCC didn't have a quorum at the meeting's end.

The meeting adjourned at 2:17.